



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
CNO EXECUTIVE PANEL
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO

MAY 20 1982

Dear Joshua,

I know that the CEP staff has informed you of the plenary meeting on June 16 and 17, but I wanted to share my views on the importance of this session with both the outgoing and incoming CNO.

Much to my regret, I will be unable to be in Washington for the meeting due to a long-planned trip to China. However, I have asked Harry Rowen to serve as acting Chairman for this session and he has graciously agreed.

The meeting with Admiral Hayward and Admiral Watkins is scheduled for two hours on the second day, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on 17 June. This will provide us an extraordinary opportunity to identify those key issues where we think we might provide valuable counsel to the new CNO during his tenure. As I believe it important that the Panel have sufficient time to reflect on what it hears, then have an opportunity to discuss, integrate, and synthesize its views, I have suggested to Captain Jake Stewart that the entire morning of 17 June might be kept free for an executive session.

The executive session could begin with a short, 15-20 minute statement from each of the sub-panel chairmen, reviewing significant sub-panel activities over Admiral Hayward's tenure and then raising the key topics that their Panel might profitably address in the future. These sub-panel views, coupled with the program that the staff is preparing for the first day of our meeting, should provide the basis for developing a comprehensive list of issues to raise in the afternoon with the CNO.

After extensive discussions with many of you, the staff has prepared a rich program to begin the session and stimulate our thinking. The first day's program will address three distinct areas:

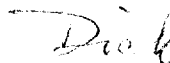
- o A "western hemisphere" perspective, touching on the various current crises in our hemisphere -- and addressing the possible roles of the Navy in periods of hemispheric tension;
- o A comprehensive update on the strategic threat to the United States; and
- o A fresh look at the "resources problem," i.e., what share of national resources the Navy might reasonably expect in the next five years, and what impact that reality could have on the present Navy program.

This will provide a full agenda, and I think that with your views and contributions it will be a most valuable session.

As a matter of information, Jake Stewart has advised me that the staff will have a "Key Issues" Book available by 1 June. They are identifying important areas of immediate and continuing concern, and selecting and editing the most important documents pertaining to the issues. The book will be available in the CEP offices, and the staff welcomes and urges you to drop by anytime you are in Washington to review the book -- or to avail yourselves of any other support the staff might provide. I am assured the coffee will be hot! I should also add that the staff welcomes any suggestions you might have for topics for the Key Issues Book, which will be maintained at the SI/TK/G level.

As I have already indicated, I very much regret that I will be unable to attend this important Panel session, but I anticipate a very successful meeting and a bright and productive future for the Panel.

Sincerely,



RICHARD N. COOPER
Chairman
CNO Executive Panel

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